

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/035,065

Examiner

Angela J. Martin

Applicant(s)

NOMURA ET AL.

Art Unit

1745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/26/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3, 5, 7-15, 17-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 August 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The Applicant claims a fuel cell system having a reforming reactor, the system comprising a fuel cell, a reforming reactor, a drain for condensed water stored in the reforming reactor, and a water-collecting portion which is formed by a plurality of sloped portions and which is provided at the bottom of the reforming reactor, wherein the drain is connected to the water-collecting portion; and a purifier for the condensed water, the purifier being a combustor for off-gas discharged from the fuel cell.

Applicant claims a fuel cell system having a reforming reactor, the system comprising a fuel cell, a reforming reactor, a drain for condensed water stored in the reforming reactor, wherein the reforming reactor comprises a plurality of serially-connected functional elements; a water-collecting portion which is formed by a plurality of sloped portions and which is attached to the bottom of the reforming reactor, wherein the drain is connected to the water-collecting portion; and a purifier for the condensed water, the purifier being a combustor for off-gas discharged from the fuel cell.

The Applicant claims a fuel cell system having a reforming reactor, the system comprising a fuel cell, a reforming reactor, a drain for condensed water stored in the reforming reactor; a water-collecting portion which is formed by a sloped portion and which is attached to the bottom of the reforming reactor, wherein the drain is connected to the water-collecting portion; and a purifier for the condensed water, the purifier being a combustor for off-gas discharged from the fuel cell.

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In the prior art of record, Kenji, Japanese Pat. No. 2000-223144, discloses a fuel cell system having a reforming reactor and a drain for condensed water stored in the reforming reactor. Yargeau, U.S. Pat. No. 4,120,787, discloses purifying condensed water with a filter and a demineralizer. O'Brien, U.S. Pat. No. 6,759,154, discloses purification devices in a storage vessel, which include distillers, deionizers, and filters.

However, the prior art of record, taken either alone or in combination, does not disclose or render obvious, a fuel cell system comprising a fuel cell, a reforming reactor, a drain for condensed water stored in the reforming reactor, and a purifier for the condensed water, the purifier being a combustor for off-gas discharged from the fuel cell.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela J. Martin whose telephone number is 571-272-1288. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
**PATRICK JOSEPH RYAN**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**

AJM